

25. *HYPSELOBARBUS KOLUS* (SYKES) - AN ADDITION TO KERALA

TABLE 1
MORPHOMETRIC AND MERISTIC MEASUREMENTS
OF *HYPSELOBARBUS KOLUS* FROM KERALA

D=4/9; P=1/14; V=1/8; A=3/5; Lr.=42.

Character	Range	Mean
Total length	124.32 - 134.45	—
Head length	26.65 - 29.19	27.76
Eye diameter	6.59 - 7.28	6.81
Snout length	11.54 - 11.89	11.72
Inter-orbital width	10.44 - 11.42	10.95
Body depth at dorsal origin	26.29 - 28.43	27.30
Body depth at anal origin	16.49 - 18.27	17.51
Pre-dorsal length	47.02 - 52.29	50.06
Pre-pectoral length	25.38 - 29.14	23.41
Pre-ventral length	47.03 - 51.92	26.85
Pre-anal length	74.59 - 80.77	77.94
Length of dorsal	24.87 - 26.29	25.46
Length of ventral	18.78 - 19.78	19.29
Length of anal	19.54 - 24.86	21.18
Length of pectoral	20.00 - 20.81	20.26
Length of caudal peduncle	12.97 - 15.23	14.06
Width of caudal peduncle	11.43 - 12.18	11.76

The large scaled barbels of the genus *Hypselobarbus* are distributed in Peninsular India. Six species have so far been described (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Recently, Menon and Rema Devi (1995) added *H. kurali* from southern Western Ghats. While describing this new species, they considered *H. kolus* as a synonym of *H. curmuca* without any discussion. However, Talwar and Jhingran (1991) treated *H. kolus* as a valid species and described its ranges as Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery river systems.

A recent survey in different systems of northern Kerala revealed the absence of *H. kolus* and *H. curmuca* in the east-flowing river systems (tributaries of Cauvery) whereas *H. curmuca* was present in the west-flowing rivers (Shaji *et al.*,

1995; Easa and Basha, 1996). In the southern parts of Kerala, both *H. curmuca* and *H. kurali* are present (Shaji and Easa, in press). During a recent visit to Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary in Palghat dist., Kerala, two juveniles of the species were collected from the Thunacadavu reservoir. Four adult specimens (17.85-19.70 cm SL) were also obtained from a local fisherman residing near Chalakudy river at Malakkapara. This is the first record of *H. kolus* from Kerala.

The morphometric and meristic measurements are given in Table 1.

The species shares some characters such as the number of lateral line scales and the weak last unbranched ray of the dorsal fin, with *H. curmuca* and *H. kurali*. But the presence of only two barbels makes *H. kolus* distinct from the two. There is a notable difference between the species in colour. In *H. kolus*, the flanks are silvery with a faint slate colour. Dorsum is slightly blackish and ventral part dirty white. All the paired and median fins are blackish at their bases and tipped with orange.

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26. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF TWO FLYING FISH: *PROGNICHTHYS GIBBIFRONS* (VAL.) AND *EXOCOETUS VOLITANS* LINN. (PISCES: EXOCOETIDAE) IN WEST BENGAL

The marine Ichthyofauna of West Bengal has been described by Talwar *et al.* (1994), and Chatterjee *et al.* (in press). In their accounts there is no mention of the blunt-nosed flying fish *Prognichthys gibbifrons* (Val.) and two-winged flying fish *Exocoetus volitans* Linn., family Exocoetidae from West Bengal, which are known from India as well as tropical and subtropical seas. Recently, the authors came across two specimens, one each of *P. gibbifrons* and *E. volitans* of total lengths 195 mm and 147 mm respectively, caught with drag nets by fishermen of Digha from Bay of Bengal on 22.12.92 and 12.3.96 respectively. The description of both species is given below.

Prognichthys gibbifrons (Val.)

Material Examined: 1 ex. locality: Digha Hospital Ghat, Coll. S. Talukdar & P.N. Jana, MARC. Regn No. 669, dt. 22.xii.92.

Diagnostic Characters: D. 12, P. 16, V.5, A.9, C. 10/12, Predorsal scales 24. Body oblong, gill openings wide, jaws short, pectoral fins elongated, reaching beyond the end of dorsal. First two pectoral rays unbranched. Origin of anal opposite 4th dorsal ray. Ventrals much longer than the head, originating about midway between caudal and eye. Eyes very large, snout blunt when mouth is closed.

Colour: Brown above, white below, dorsal and caudal brown. Pectoral gray with lighter

middle region. Ventral with darker rays in middle.

Exocoetus volitans Linnaeus.

Material Examined: 1 ex., locality: Digha Hospital Ghat, Coll. J. Sarkar, MARC. Regn No. 1665 dt. 12.iii.96.

Diagnostic Characters: D-14, P. 14, V.6, A. 13, C 7/9. Body moderately oblong. Gill openings very wide, Jaws short, the premaxillaries and maxillaries separate. Pectoral fins elongated, and reaching caudal base. Ventrals small, originating nearer tip of snout than caudal base. Eyes large. Snout obtuse when the mouth is closed. 6.5 rows of scales between the origin of the dorsal fin and the lateral line.

Colour: Bluish along the back, becoming lighter on the sides and beneath. Pectorals greyish.

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